

WHAT I CLAIM IS:

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1. A spark plug, comprising:

an outer annular electrode,

an insulator disposed within said outer electrode and  
having an axial extent, said outer electrode having an  
annular end face which extends axially beyond said  
insulating element,

an inner electrode secured within said insulator, and

a disk-shaped element supported on the end of said  
inner electrode, said disk-shaped element being spaced from  
said outer electrode by a gap "G" and defining with said  
outer electrode a 360° annular sparking zone.

2. The spark plug of claim 1, wherein said inner electrode  
comprises a rod-shaped element supported substantially  
centrally within said insulator.

3. The spark plug of claim 2, wherein said rod-shaped element is held within said insulator by a tight friction fit whereby said gap "G" can be maintained.

5 4. The spark plug of claim 3, wherein said gap "G" is adjustable.

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5. The spark plug of claim 4, wherein a preferred range of adjustment for said gap "G" is between 0.020 inch and 0.080 inch.

15 6. The spark plug of claim 1, wherein the outer electrode includes an annular contact face comprising a hardened alloy material.

20 7. The spark plug of claim 6, wherein said disk-shaped element comprises an annular lip at the periphery thereof, said lip extending in the direction of said contact face.

8. The spark plug of claim 7, wherein said lip has a rectangular cross-section.

5 9. The spark plug of claim 7, wherein said lip has a triangular cross-section.

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10 10. The spark plug of claim 1, wherein said disk-shaped element comprises a circular plate having substantially parallel opposing major surfaces.

11. The spark plug of claim 10, wherein sparks in said sparking zone move from said outer electrode to said inner electrode.

15 12. The spark plug of claim 11, wherein said sparks comprise one or more simultaneously generated sparks.

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